

Subject: WEDC minutes for July 18, 2006

Weare Economic Development Committee Minutes - July 18, 2006

The meeting opened at 7:15pm

Present: Heleen Kurk, George Malette, Alice Morris, Jim Thompson

Visitor: Scott Becker

The Weare Ethics Code forms were collected.

The June minutes were approved.

Scott Becker indicated an interest in becoming a member of WEDC. The committee voted to accept Becker as an alternate member and to send his nomination to the Select Board.

Thompson discussed the visit from Ricia Velasco of the State Div. Of Economic Development

Velasco visited with various town officials. Weare is one of only 4 towns not represented in a regional Economic Development Corporation. The regional corps can help towns get grants. Thompson will contact nearby corps to see which towns are in which corp. and how we might fit into which one. Velasco also had a list of good web site links for small business people.

The "Welcome to Weare" signs are showing their age. WEDC needs to contact sign companies to renew or replace signs. The original sign maker, Gannon Signs, is no longer in business. WEDC has money in the budget for signs. The sign on Rte. 77 needs to be moved further from the street to lessen snow/salt problems. Kurk will call up some sign companies and contact the prison shop to get bids on renewal or replacement of signs,

A new business is going up on Rte. 77 near Dump Rd. It will be an office building and warehouse developed by Frank Farmer.

For next year's warrant article, we need one on architectural standards for commercial and industrial zones if we wish to avoid tin buildings and have compatible buildings. It was suggested that developers/builders should have drawings of the building exterior as part of the permit application.

WEDC would like to host a public input meeting on sign ordinances. Both business people and residents will be requested to come. There is a need to define what is a sign and a special need to discuss temporary signs

and signs in the center of town. Notification of the meeting will be put in newspapers, on cable, and e-mailed to Chamber of Commerce members. It is particularly important to have a Select Board member, the town administrator, and Chip Meany (the code enforcement officer) there along with representatives of town committees and boards, SWIS, Farmer's Market, the Historic Society, realtors, business owners/managers and residents. The format of the meeting will be with facilitators and writers. The attendees will be split into groups to discuss topics such as: definition of a sign, temporary signs, permit/cost, regulation & paperwork, enforcement, design characteristics. WEDC is looking at a brown bag lunch meeting on a Wednesday or Thursday Sept 13, 14, 20 or 21 depending on availability of the Town Hall and a second meeting to discuss findings on Oct. 18,19,25, or 26. Meanwhile WEDC needs to pull together ideas for discussion at its next meeting.

Malette checked into the price of maps with business locations, but was unable to obtain that information until the map maker knows how many businesses need to be put on the map.

The next meeting will be the third Tuesday of August, 15.

The meeting adjourned 8:57

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Morris, secretary